

1 Kings 1:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And now, behold, Adonijah reigneth; and now, my lord the king, thou knowest it not:

Analysis

And now, behold, Adonijah reigneth; and now, my lord the king, thou knowest it not:

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of Solomon's accession and Adonijah's rebellion, within the book's focus on succession narrative and establishment of Solomon's reign.

The Hebrew text reveals nuances important for understanding this passage's contribution to 1 Kings' theological message about kingship, covenant, and faithfulness to Yahweh. This verse demonstrates the consequences when God's people—especially their leaders—either follow or forsake the covenant established at Sinai.

Historical Context

First Kings was written during or after the Babylonian exile (6th century BCE), reflecting on the monarchy period (10th-9th centuries BCE) to explain why the kingdoms fell. This passage describes events around 970 BCE during the transition from David to Solomon.

Ancient Near Eastern kingship ideology viewed kings as divine representatives responsible for maintaining cosmic order through right worship. Archaeological discoveries from sites like Megiddo, Hazor, and Samaria confirm the historical

reliability of 1 Kings' descriptions of building projects and administrative structures.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does this passage illustrate the importance of clear succession planning and communication in leadership transitions?
2. What does Solomon's consolidation of power reveal about the relationship between justice, mercy, and political necessity?
3. How does this verse point toward or prepare for the coming of Christ and His eternal kingdom?

Interlinear Text

וְעַתָּה הִנֵּה ה'	אֲדֹנִי ה'	מֶלֶךְ ה'	וְעַתָּה ה'	אֲדֹנִי י'
H6258	H2009	And now behold Adonijah	reigneth	H6258
		H138	H4427	and now my lord
				H113
הַמֶּלֶךְ לְךָ	לֹא יָדַעְתָּ:			
the king	H3808	thou knowest		
H4428		H3045		

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 1:24 (Kingdom): And Nathan said, My lord, O king, hast thou said, Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne?